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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Masahisa KAWASHIMA, et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/574,589

GROUP: 2445

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EXAMINER: KRISHNAN, VIVEK V.

FOR: MAIL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, MAIL DISTRIBUTION METHOD, AND MAIL  
DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE  
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SIR:

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of Allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of March 23, 2009, Applicants respectfully submit the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on pages 6 and 7 of the Notice of Allowance mailed March 23, 2009, paragraph 2 states in part that the prior art fails to teach or suggest:

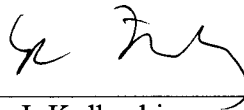
[A]n alias mail processing unit that receives an alias mail addressed from an originator address to an alias address generated from a recipient address and a predetermined generation argument restores the recipient address and the generation argument from the alias address, replaces the alias address in the alias mail with the restored recipient address, and replaces the originator address in the alias mail with a reply destination address generated from the restored generation argument and the originator address to transfer the alias mail to the recipient address; and a reply mail processing unit that receives a reply mail addressed from the recipient address to the reply destination address responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit acquires the originator address and the generation argument from the reply destination address, regenerates the alias address from the acquired generation argument and the recipient address replaces the reply destination address in the reply

mail with the acquired originator address, and replaces the recipient address in the reply mail with the regenerated alias address regenerated to transfer the reply mail to the originator address.

Although the above comment seems to be directed to independent Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 23, 25, 28, 30 and 33 do not include all of the elements recited above. For example, Claims 23, 28 and 33 recite a first mail unit that receives or a first mail processing including receiving "a mail addressed from the originator address to a recipient reply destination address generated from the recipient alias address" and not "an alias mail processing unit that receives an alias mail addressed from an originator address to an alias address generated from a recipient address." In addition, Claims 25 and 30 recite a method comprising or to perform "alias mail processing" which includes "receiving" and "restoring" and not "an alias mail processing unit that receives" and "replaces," respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above quoted statement applies only to independent Claim 1 (and claims dependent therefrom), and not independent Claims 23, 25, 28, 30 and 33 (and claims dependent therefrom), to the extent the language used in the statement differs from the language of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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